(b) if so, the details of tourism circuits identified so far in Orissa for development; and

(c) by when work on the identified circuits is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (c) During the 10th Five Year Plan the Department of Tourism proposes to identify six tourism circuits in the country annually and develop the facilities in these circuits to international standards. During the current year following six circuits have been identified for development in consultation with the State Governments:

(i) Eastern Region—(Buddhist Circuit): Bodhgaya-Rajgir-Nalanda-Varanasi.

(ii) Northern Region—(Himalayan Circuit):

Route I—Chandigarh-Bilaspur-Kullu-Manali-Rohtang La-Key Long-Sarchu-Upshi-Leh.

Route II—Shimla-Sangla-Kaza-Chatru-Keylong-Sarchu-Yashi-Leh.

(iii) Central Circuit—(Heritage, Nature & Wildlife Circuit): Gwalior-Shivpuri-Chanderi-Orcha-Khajuraho-Jhansi-Bhopal-Sanchi and surrounding Buddhist areas-Bhimbetka-Pachamarhi-Kanha Jabalpur (Bhedaghat).

(iv) Western Circuit—(Konkan Riviera circuit): Bombay-Alibagh (Mandva)-Muradjanjira-Ganapatipule-Vijaydurg-Mithibad-Kunkeshwar-Mochetmad-Sindhudurg-Tarkarli-Shiroda-Savantwadi-Amboli-Goa-Coastal Karnataka-Bekal.

(v) Southern Circuit—(Backwater and Beach Circuit): Cochin-Kumarakom-(Backwaters)-Kottayam-Quilon-Trivandrum (Kovalam).

(vi) North-East Circuit—(Eco-Tourism Circuit): Shillong-Guwahati-Kaziranga-Tezpur-Bhalakpung-Tawang (Arunachal Pradesh)-Majuli-Sibsagar-Kohima.

Development of tourism in Arunachal Pradesh

2081. SHRI NABAM REBIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps being taken by the Government to develop tourism in the State of Arunachal Pradesh like other States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (c) Development and promotion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/UT Administrations concerned. Department of Tourism, Government of India provides financial assistance for identified tourism projects in consultation with them.

Department of Tourism, Government of India has decided that during the 10th Five Year Plan it will identify six travel circuits in the country on an annual basis and develop them. The circuit identified for NE Region is as follows:

Shillong-Guwahati-Kaziranga-Tezpur-Bhalakpung-Tawang (Arunachal Pradesh)-Majuli-Sibsagar-Kohima.

In addition to this, it is proposed to identify one major destination in each State/Union Territory for overall development each year.

During the financial year 2002-2003, a provision of Rs. 22.5 crores has been made for North Eastern Region including Sikkim for tourism development.

New Tourist Spots

2082. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken to increase India's share in the World tourist traffic; and

(b) the new tourist spots identified in various State to attract tourist traffic?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) The Department of Tourism has the following short-term and long-term plans to make tourism more attractive and thereby attracting more foreign tourists in the country.

* Development of 'Hubs' in which elements of culture, tourism, clean civic life, efficient and effective management and healthy